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| 09/935,253 | 08/22/2001 | Owen Friel | 476-2048 | 9744 |
| 7590 05/01/2007 Lee, Mann, Smith, McWilliams, Sweeney & Ohlson P.O. Box 2786 Chicago, IL 60690-2786 | | | EXAMINER JOO, JOSHUA | |
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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

| | | | |
|------------------------------|-------------------------------|------------------------------|--|
| Office Action Summary | Application No. 09/935,253 | Applicant(s) FRIEL ET AL. | |
| | Examiner Joshua Joo | Art Unit 2154 | |

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 19 February 2007.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1,3,5-10 and 12-28 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1,3,5-10 and 12-28 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 10 December 2001 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

Detailed Action

Response to Amendment filed 12/18/2006

1. Claims 1, 3, 5-10, 12-28 are presented for examination.

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

2. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 12/18/2006 has been entered.

Response to Arguments

3. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-28 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection. New ground(s) of rejection are necessitated by Applicant's amendment.

Applicant argued that:

4. (1) Applying the teachings of Gleneck and Galasso would require a greater processing effort and storage capacity for the gatekeeper of the combination of Gleneck, Galasso, and Peek than that required for the gateway keeper of the present invention. The combination of Gleneck, Galasso, and Peek removes the need for the gatekeeper to identify a plurality of gateways associated with terminals having the same identifier as that contained in the request, but consequently reduces the number of possible implementations enabled by the present invention thereby reducing network versatility.

5. In response, Galasso has been withdrawn from the Office action, and newly cited reference Goodman (US Patent #6,735,617) is presented in this Office action, wherein Goodman teaches of a

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gatekeeper that identifies a plurality of gateways associated with a terminal having an identifier identical to the destination terminal identifier (col. 2, lines 12-20; col. 3, lines 27-37.).

The present invention as claimed is not distinguishable from the combination of references, Gleneck, Goodman, and Peek, which teach the newly amended claims. Furthermore, Goodman's teachings of a plurality of gateways associated with a terminal having an identifier identical to the identifier request would be needed because the teachings would provide alternative paths to the destination, wherein a gateway with low utilization may be used for a connection (col. 3, lines 35-39).

Specification

7. The specification is objected to as failing to provide proper antecedent basis for the claimed subject matter. See 37 CFR 1.75(d)(1) and MPEP § 608.01(o). Correction of the following is required:

- i) Regarding claims 27-28, "computer program product".

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 101

8. 35 U.S.C. 101 reads as follows:

Whoever invents or discovers any new and useful process, machine, manufacture, or composition of matter, or any new and useful improvement thereof, may obtain a patent therefor, subject to the conditions and requirements of this title.

9. Claims 27-28 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 101 because the claimed invention is directed to non-statutory subject matter.

Regarding claim 27, Applicant is seeking to patent a computer program product comprising a computer readable medium containing computer program code. The computer program product may be interpreted as the program code, i.e. software, per se. Software does not meet one of the four categories of invention and is not statutory. Specifically, software is not a series of steps or acts and thus is not a process. Software is not a physical article or object and as such is not a machine or manufacture. Software is not a combination of substances and therefore not a composition of matter.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

10. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

11. Claims 1, 5-8, 10, 12-14, 18, 20, 22-23, 25-28 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Gleneck, US Publication #2002/0041588 (Gleneck hereinafter), in view of Goodman, US Patent #6,735,617 (Goodman hereinafter) and Peek et al, US Publication #2002/0049768 (Peek hereinafter).

12. As per claims 1, 22, and 28, Gleneck teaches substantially the invention as claimed including a method of determining a packet network address of at least one gateway which can be contacted to reach a destination terminal from an originating terminal via packet-based communications network, Gleneck's teachings comprising a plurality of terminals connected to a plurality of gateways (Paragraph 0004; 0021-0022. Plurality of terminals connected to plurality of gateways) and further comprising a gatekeeper, said gatekeeper having information about each gateway, said information comprising an identifier for each terminal connected to each of said plurality of gateways and a packet network address for each of said plurality of gateways (Paragraph 0024. Gatekeeper keeps database of all gateways, IP addresses, and phone numbers that each gateway supports.), said method comprising the steps of:

(i) sending a request from an originating gateway connected to the originating terminal to the gatekeeper, said request comprising the identifier of the destination terminal (Paragraph 0029. Source gateway sends requests to gatekeeper, request for dialing plan translation for destination phone number.);

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(ii) receiving a reply at the originating gateway from the gatekeeper said reply comprising the packet network address of at least one of gateway which can be contacted to reach the destination terminal (Paragraph 0030-31. Gatekeeper looks up the IP address of the destination gateway and returns IP address to the source gateway.).

13. Gleneck teaches of identifying at the gatekeeper a gateway having a terminal associated therewith, but does not specifically teach of identifying at the gatekeeper a plurality of gateways having a terminal associated therewith where said terminal has an identifier identical to the destination terminal identifier comprising the request. Gleneck also does not specifically teach wherein said communications network comprises a first zone and a second zone each comprising a plurality of terminals connected to a plurality of gateways and wherein a plurality of terminal identifiers of the first zone are also used for terminals of the second zone.

Goodman teaches of identifying at the gatekeeper a plurality of gateways having a terminal associated therewith wherein said terminal has an identifier identical to the destination terminal identifier comprising the request (col. 2, lines 12-20. A given telephone number may be associated with more than one gateway. Table maintains gateway addresses and searched for by telephone number. col. 3, lines 27-37. Gatekeeper looks in zone table to determine a gateway with low utilization. Forward call to gateway.). Goodman further teaches a network comprising a first zone and a second zone, wherein each zone comprises a plurality of terminals connected to a plurality of gateways (col. 2, lines 10-12. Telephone numbers to Gateways. col. 3, lines 27-29. Zones in which each zone has several gateways.).

14. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the teachings of Gleneck with the teachings of Goodman to identify at the gatekeeper a plurality of gateways having a terminal associated therewith wherein said terminal has an identifier identical to the destination terminal identifier comprising the request. The motivation for combination is

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that Goodman's teachings would enhance Gleneck's system by allowing for selection of a gateway that may minimize network charges (col. 2, lines 23-28) and/or providing alternative paths to the destination, wherein a gateway with low utilization may be used for a connection (col. 3, lines 35-39). It would have been also obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the teachings of Gleneck with the teachings of Goodman for the network to comprise a first zone and a second zone with each zone comprising a plurality of terminals connected to a plurality of gateways. The motivation for the modification is that zones would provide distributed the management and administration of the network.

15. Gleneck and Goodman still do not specifically teach of terminal identifiers of the first zone used for terminals of the second zone.

Peek teaches of same terminal identifiers used by different callers at different locations (Paragraph 0048).

16. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the system of Gleneck, Goodman, and Peek to use the same terminal identifiers at different locations. The motivation for the combination is that Peek's teachings would enhance Gleneck and Goodman's system by increasing the number of terminals that can connect to the network, and decreasing the number of different terminal identifiers, which would provide efficient network management.

17. As per claims 18 and 27, Gleneck teaches substantially the invention as claimed including a gatekeeper arranged for use in a packet-based communications network comprising a plurality of terminals connected to a plurality of gateways (Paragraph 0004; 0021-0022. Plurality of terminals connected to plurality of gateways) and wherein identifiers are associated with each terminal and each of said plurality of gateways has a packet network address, Gleneck's teachings comprising:

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(i) a data store arranged to store information about each of said plurality of gateways in the communication network, said information comprising the identifier of each terminal connected to each of said plurality of gateways and the packet network address of each of said plurality of gateways (Paragraph 0024. Gatekeeper keeps database of all gateways, IP addresses, and phone numbers that each gateway supports.);

(ii) an input arranged to receive a request from an originating gateway in the communications network, said request comprising an identifier of a destination terminal (Paragraph 0029. Receive request from source gateway, request for dialing plan translation for destination phone number.);

(iii) a processor arranged to determine the packet network address of a gateway which can be contacted to reach the destination terminal (Paragraph 0030-31. Lookup IP address of the destination gateway connected to called party.);

(iv) an output arranged to send a reply to the originating gateway, said reply comprising the packet network address of said gateway identified by the processor which can be contacted to reach the destination terminal (Paragraph 0030-31. Return IP address of the destination gateway to source gateway.).

18. Gleneck teaches of identifying at the gatekeeper a gateway having a terminal associated therewith, but does not specifically teach of identifying at the gatekeeper a plurality of gateways having a terminal associated therewith where said terminal has an identifier identical to the destination terminal identifier comprising the request. Gleneck also does not specifically teach wherein said communications network comprises a first zone and a second zone each comprising a plurality of terminals connected to a plurality of gateways and wherein a plurality of terminal identifiers of the first zone are also used for terminals of the second zone.

Goodman teaches of identifying at the gatekeeper a plurality of gateways having a terminal associated therewith wherein said terminal has an identifier identical to the destination terminal identifier

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comprising the request (col. 2, lines 12-20. A given telephone number may be associated with more than one gateway. Table maintains gateway addresses and searched for by telephone number. col. 3, lines 27-37. Gatekeeper looks in zone table to determine a gateway. Forward call to gateway.). Goodman further teaches a network comprising a first zone and a second zone, wherein each zone comprises a plurality of terminals connected to a plurality of gateways (col. 2, lines 10-12. Telephone numbers to Gateways. col. 3, lines 27-29. Zones in which each zone has several gateways.).

19. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the teachings of Gleneck with the teachings of Goodman to identify at the gatekeeper a plurality of gateways having a terminal associated therewith wherein said terminal has an identifier identical to the destination terminal identifier comprising the request. The motivation for combination is that Goodman's teachings would enhance Gleneck's system by allowing for selection of a gateway that may minimize network charges (col. 2, lines 23-28) and/or providing alternative paths to the destination, wherein a gateway with low utilization may be used for a connection (col. 3, lines 35-39). It would have been also obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the teachings of Gleneck with the teachings of Goodman for the network to comprise a first zone and a second zone with each zone comprising a plurality of terminals connected to a plurality of gateways. The motivation for the modification is that zones would provide distributed the management and administration of the network.

20. Gleneck and Goodman still do not specifically teach of terminal identifiers of the first zone used for terminals of the second zone.

Peek teaches of same terminal identifiers used by different callers at different locations (Paragraph 0048).

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21. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the system of Gleneck, Goodman, and Peek to use the same terminal identifiers at different locations. The motivation for the combination is that Peek's teachings would enhance Gleneck and Goodman's system by increasing the number of terminals that can connect to the network, and decreasing the number of different terminal identifiers, which would provide efficient network management.

22. As per claims 5 and 20, Gleneck teaches the method as claimed in claim 1 wherein said reply is provided by the gatekeeper on the basis of the destination terminal identifier of the request (Paragraph 0030. Gatekeeper uses dialed phone number to look up the IP address of the destination gateway and returns the IP address.).

23. As per claims 6 and 23, Gleneck teaches the method as claimed in claim 1 wherein said request further comprises the packet network address of the originating gateway (Paragraph 0030. Gatekeeper returns IP address to the source gateway. Network address of the originating gateway is inherent for the gatekeeper to respond to source gateway's request.).

24. As per claim 7, Gleneck teaches the method as claimed in claim 6 wherein said reply is provided by the gatekeeper on the basis of a unique label of the originating gateway as well as the destination terminal identifier of the request (Paragraph 0030. Gatekeeper uses dialed phone number to look up and return IP address of the destination gateway to the source gateway. Return based on dialed phone number and source gateway's identifier.).

25. As per claim 8, Gleneck, Goodman, and Peek taught of specifying gateways and destination identifiers occurring in more than one location. Gleneck does not specifically teach a method wherein if

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the destination terminal identifier of the request occurs in both zones, the reply specifies that one of said plurality of gateways in the originating zone is to be contacted.

Peek teaches that terminal identifiers can occur in more than location, and identifies recipient (destination) based on the caller (Paragraph 0048).

26. Peek does not specifically teach of the reply specifying the gateway in the originating zone is to be contacted. However, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art that based on the caller, the recipient may be identified in the same zone, i.e. a local call, as the caller, then the originating zone should be contacted. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to combine the teachings of Gleneck, Goodman, and Peek to contact the gateway in the originating zone if terminal identifiers occur in both zones, which would allow terminals in the same zone to communicate with each other.

27. As per claim 10, Gleneck teaches the method as claimed in claim 1 wherein the identifiers are of a type selected from telephone numbers, universal resource identifiers (URLs), email addresses or any other suitable type of H.323 standard alias (Paragraph 0027-0028. Telephone number.).

28. As per claim 12, Gleneck teaches the method as claimed in claim 1 wherein the request is an H.323 admission request. (Paragraph 0019-0020. H.323 network. Paragraph 0029. request comprising dialed phone number.).

29. As per claim 13, Gleneck teaches the method as claimed in claim 1 wherein the reply is an H.323 admission confirm message (Paragraph 0019-0020. H.323 network. Paragraph 0030. Response.).

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30. As per claim 14, Gleneck does not specifically teach the method wherein each gateway of said plurality of gateways is unaware of which terminals are connected to others of said plurality of gateways in the communications network.

However, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art that gateways are not aware of the terminals connected to other gateways since the gateways contact gatekeeper for routing information, wherein the gatekeeper maintains a database of gateways and phone numbers supported by the gateway. Gateways that are unaware of which terminals are connected to other gateways would reduce the burden of individual gateways to maintain routing information, and allow the gatekeeper to make routing decisions.

31. As per claim 25, Gleneck teaches a communications network comprising a gateway as claimed in claim 22 (Paragraph 0020; 0023).

32. As per claim 26, Gleneck teaches a communications network comprising a gatekeeper as claimed in claim 18 (Paragraph 0019; 0023).

33. Claim 3 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Gleneck, Goodman, and Peek, in view of O'Brien, JR, US Publication #2003/0031165 (O'Brien hereinafter).

34. As per claim 3, Gleneck teaches of returning information comprising one of the plurality of gateways. However, Gleneck does not specifically teach the method wherein said reply comprises information about only one of the plurality of gateways which is in the same zone as the originating terminal.

O'Brien teaches of a first user calling through VOIP to second caller, wherein the first and second user reside on the same network (Fig. 1).

35. If both users can reside on the same network, and Gleneck teaches of returning information about a gateway, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to combine the teachings of Gleneck, Goodman, Peek, and O'Brien to return information about a gateway in the same zone as the originating terminal, which would efficiently connect the caller to the called party.

36. Claim 9 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Gleneck, Goodman, and Peek, in view of Tomoike, US Patent #5,940,512 (Tomoike hereinafter).

37. As per claim 9, Gleneck, Goodman, and Peek taught of a first zone and second zone. Gleneck does not specifically teach a method wherein the first zone is associated with a first enterprise and a second zone is associated with a second enterprise.

Tomoike discloses in the "Background of the Invention" that a plurality of service providers offer services to different regions or areas (col. 1, line 12-14).

38. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the system of Gleneck, Goodman, and Peek with the teachings of Tomoike to have different services associated with different regions, which would provide connection between two service areas, and provide users with varying services, such as different quality of service and cost of routing data.

39. Claims 15-16, 19, 21, and 24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Gleneck, Goodman, and Peek, in view of Ng et al, US Patent #6,791,970 (Ng hereinafter).

40. As per claim 15, Gleneck teaches the method wherein the gatekeeper comprises information about which terminals are accessible from each of said plurality of gateways. Gleneck does not specifically teach a method wherein said gatekeeper further comprises information about which terminals

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are accessible from each of said plurality of gateways together with cost information associated with accessing those terminals from each gateway.

Ng teaches of a gatekeeper comprising a gateway provider database that maintains a list of gateways and their destination telephones, which includes the rates of the gateways (col. 3, lines 10-22).

41. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the teachings of Gleneck, Goodman, Peek, and Ng to maintain a list of the cost information with accessing the terminals through each gateway, which would allow the gatekeeper to determine a route that satisfies criteria, such as certain rate, specified by a user (col. 3, lines 20-25).

42. As per claim 16, Gleneck does not specifically teach the method as claimed in claim 15 wherein said reply comprises information about each gateway that can be used to access the destination terminal of the request together with each gateway's associated cost information.

Ng teaches of determining s lowest cost gateway, where a gatekeeper replies with selected gateway providers with the associated costs (col. 3, lines 10-12; col. 4, lines 9-13).

43. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the teachings of Gleneck, Goodman, Peek, and Ng to provide the associated cost of accessing the gateway, which would provide information to select a gateway that would satisfy criteria, such as certain rate, specified by a user (col. 3, lines 20-25).

44. As per claim 19, Gleneck does not specifically teach a gatekeeper as claimed in claim 18 wherein said memory is further arranged to store cost information relating to the cost of accessing each available terminal from each of said plurality of gateways.

Ng teaches of a gatekeeper comprising a database of gateways and their destination telephones, and information relating to the rates of the gateways (col. 3, lines 10-22).

45. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the teachings of Gleneck, Goodman, Peek, and Ng to maintain a list of the cost information with accessing the terminals through each gateway, which would provide information to select a gateway that would satisfy criteria, such as certain rate, specified by a user (col. 3, lines 20-25).

46. As per claim 21, Gleneck and Goodman taught the gatekeeper wherein the processor is arranged to determine said packet network address of said plurality of gateways having a terminal associated therewith where said terminal has an identifier identical to the destination terminal identifier comprising the request. Gleneck also teach of identifying a packet network address of a gateway on the basis of the destination terminal identifier (Paragraph 0030) and that said request further comprises the packet network address of the originating gateway connected to the originating terminal (Paragraph 0029-0030. Gateway returns IP address to the originating gateway. It is inherent that that the request contains packet network address of the originating gateway.). Gleneck does not specifically teach that the processor is arranged to determine said packet network address of the plurality of gateways on the basis of the packet network address of the originating gateway and destination terminal identifier of the request.

47. However, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to determine an outbound gateway based on both the destination terminal identifier and the originating gateway because doing so would provide an efficient connection that would minimize delay and cost between the caller and called party.

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48. As per claim 24, Gleneck does not specifically teach of a gateway as claimed in 22 wherein said reply comprises cost information associated with the second gateways.

Ng teaches of determining the lowest cost gateway, where a gatekeeper replies with selected gateway providers with the associated costs (col. 3, lines 10-12; col. 4, lines 9-13).

49. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the teachings of Gleneck, Goodman, Peek, and Ng to provide the associated cost of accessing the gateway, which would provide information to select a gateway that would satisfy criteria, such as certain rate, specified by a user (col. 3, lines 20-25).

50. Claims 17 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Gleneck, Galasso, Peek, and Ng, in view of Thompson III et al, US Publication #2002/0154751 (Thompson hereinafter).

51. As per claim 17, Gleneck does not specifically teach a method as claim 16 wherein said reply comprises a list of said gateways in order of said plurality of gateways' associated costs.

Thompson teaches of listing and ranking plans according to cost (Paragraph 67).

52. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the system of Gleneck, Goodman, Peek, and Ng with the teachings of Thompson to put the list in the order of the costs. Thompson's teachings would improve the user-friendliness of the system of Gleneck, Goodman, Peek, and Ng by providing an ordered list that would make the information more convenient to compare the costs of routing through each gateway and selecting a gateway.

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Conclusion

53. The following prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Iwama et al US Publication #2003/0235187 teaches of gateways in different zones and a gatekeeper determining the address of a gateway.

54. A shortened statutory period for reply to this Office action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action.

55. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Joshua Joo whose telephone number is 571 272-3966. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday to Thursday 8AM to 5PM and every other Friday.

56. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Nathan J. Flynn can be reached on 571 272-1915. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

57. Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

April 17, 2007

JJ

NATHAN J. FLYNN
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2100